

Montana State Library Report
Prepared for Spring 2013 Meetings
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Version dated March 18, 2013

http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/MSLReport.pdf

Goal One, Content: MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.

- **Digitization Project:** Library Information Services is continuing the fourth year of our on-going project to digitize state publications. More than 16,000 publications are now available online at <http://www.archive.org/details/MontanaStateLibrary>. The publications can also be found by searching the Montana Shared Catalog and WorldCat. Learn more at: <http://msl.mt.gov/digitization/>. For more information about how depository and non-depository libraries may provide more direct access to this digital collection and an even more comprehensive web archive of state publications at [MT.GOV Connect](#), please contact Beth Downs, bdowns@mt.gov or 406-444-2870.
- **Montana Legislative Snapshot:** MSL finalized the very popular "Legislative Snapshot" and distributed it to each legislator the first week of the session. The "Snapshot" highlights the value of the Montana State Library by providing information from each Senate district that is relevant to the topics most likely to be addressed by the convening legislature. This booklet provides vital information to help legislators make difficult decisions in the coming months, and also demonstrates the power of what a diverse staff with amazingly diverse skills can do to make information, in many different forms, available to every Montanan. Fifty different versions of the snapshot (one for each legislative district) were produced. The online version is available to anyone who may be interested at: http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Legislative_Snapshot/2013/default.aspx.
- **Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure:** MSL Geographic Information continues to manage several geographic information system (GIS) data themes within the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure <http://giscoordination.mt.gov/frameworkdata.asp>. MSDI work is prioritized per the FY13 MSDI work plan http://giscoordination.mt.gov/Documents/MSDI_FY13_workplan/MSDI_workplan_FY13_Final.pdf. Several projects related to the cadastral, hydrography, administrative boundary and geographic names themes are underway at this time.
- **Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) Predictive Models:** Over the past couple of years, the MTNHP Zoology Program has led the effort to create predictive distribution models and relative habitat suitability models for hundreds of vertebrate species. Recently, MTNHP initiated efforts to fully evaluate these models in formal write-ups for individual species. Model evaluation write-ups have now been completed for 26 species that are going to be used as focal species for

habitat management and conservation efforts by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture and the Montana Bird Conservation Partnership. Model write-ups are available for download at: <http://mtnhp.org/models/>.

- **Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) BARD online services:** MTBL BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) online service (<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/mt1a>) continues to increase in popularity with patrons who have the resources, skills and preference to download. Electronic Braille titles, in addition to foreign language titles and periodicals, are now accessible through BARD. Within the next year, National Library Service plans to create a mechanism for locally recorded books to be added to BARD from Regional Talking Book Libraries that have local Recording Programs.
- **MTBL Digital Magazine Services** will be available to patrons this year.
- **MTBL Twin Vision Braille embossed titles** continue to be produced at MTBL and added to the collection for availability to qualified students and their schools.
- **Statewide Databases and Online Services:** The 2012-13 suite of statewide databases and online services are available to all Montana libraries enrolled in the [Montana Library Directory](#). Access information, URL's for each resource and support contact information is available at the new Directory "all staff" level accessible via librarians' individual library accounts.
- The statewide EBSCO databases include the Elite Mainfile primary suite package, the professional nursing database CINAHL with Full Text, the Auto Repair Reference Center and the Small Engine Repair Reference Center.
- "HomeworkMT", available from Tutor.com, is the additional statewide resource within the 2012-13 statewide suite. Live Homework Help Online Tutoring is offered in over 20 subject areas with coverage Sunday through Thursday 2 P.M. to 11 P.M. The ProofPoint Real-Time Writing Center allows student and tutor to collaborate in real time on reports, essays and papers for K-12 and College. A SkillsCenter Resource Library offers a library of worksheets, videos and sample problems based on subject (Math, English, Science and Social Studies) for Elementary-High School. The Career Resources Center includes resume and cover letter assistance and interview guidelines.

Goal Two, Access: MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.

- **"DiscoverIt":** [EBSCO's Discovery Service](#) (EDS) provides centralized searching and retrieval capabilities to all Montana library patrons. Patrons are able to search the following resources in a single search: the statewide suite of EBSCO databases, the Montana Memory Project, the Montana Shared Catalog and OCLC's WorldCat.org. The catalogs of the Butte Silver Bow Public Library, the Lewis and Clark Library, and the Great Falls Public Library have recently been added, allowing library patrons from the MSC and these three libraries to search across library collections and to request materials within a common interface. Libraries also have the option of integrating

their unique e-content subscriptions within their own DiscoverIt profile. DiscoverIt is available to all libraries in the Montana Library Directory. Each library's individual site information, a customizable search box and a sample press release are available at the new [Montana Library Directory](#) "all staff" level accessible via librarians' individual library accounts.

- **EZProxy Centralized Authentication:** Montana Shared Catalog libraries can now take advantage of EZproxy for library card authentication into DiscoverIt and the EBSCO databases. Other libraries that do not have SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) authentication have different options if they use Microsoft IIS for their web server and/or if they have enabled ASP or ASP.NET web application frameworks. Libraries interested in this service should contact Cara Orban, corban@mt.gov or 406-444-5431.
- **Montana Memory Project -- Montana's Digital Library & Archives:** The MMP has applied for a Humanities Montana (HM) grant to provide expanded access to collections on the MMP website using topics, geographic locations, and time periods. The HM grants will be awarded in March. Seventeen applications were received for the LSTA funds (\$7,500 total) available to help cultural organizations add materials to the MMP. We are pleased to announce that from the applications the following institutions will receive grants for projects:
 - Beaverhead County Museum in Dillon -- \$1,000 for the Armstead, Montana photograph collection.
 - Butte Silver Bow Public Archives -- \$1,500 for the Charles Hauswirth papers and photographs.
 - Carroll College and Rocky Mountain College -- \$1,250 each for college yearbooks.
 - Phillips County Library, Phillips County Museum -- \$1,500 for local newspapers published before 1923.
 - Sidney-Richland County Library -- \$1,500 for locally published histories, newspapers, and high school yearbooks.
- The Network Advisory Council recommended that an additional \$7,500 be made available for MMP grants from FY13 LSTA funds. The Commission will consider this recommendation at their April 17 meeting.
- The MMP staff continues to do outreach and to assist with technical issues involved with using CONTENTdm and uploading collections. The MMP collection continues to grow and recent highlights include the Sax and Fryer Photos (1880s-1960s for the Livingston area), the Flathead and Lincoln Counties City Directories (1901-1922), and local newspapers for the Polson area (1910-1922). Visit the MMP at <http://mtmemory.org> or search the content through DiscoverIt.
- **The Montana Natural Heritage Program** provides many online sources of information for the animals, plants, and habitats of Montana, focusing on those of conservation concern. The **Montana Field Guide** (<http://fieldguide.mt.gov/>) is one of its most frequently consulted resources. Field Guides include the Animal Field Guide, the Plant Field Guide, the Lichen Field

Guide, and the Ecological Systems Guide. The Guides provide information on identification, habitat, ecology, and distribution of Montana's wildlife, rare plants, and ecological systems. They contain descriptions, range maps, photos, and animal calls. The Field Guide also includes reference citations that are built from a WorldCat web service. The citations link to full-text articles when available or WorldCat records to easily facilitate interlibrary loan. In addition, and in response to requests from MTNHP Partners, portions of the Montana Field Guide are now available for downloading as PDF files for viewing off-line.

- **MTBL - The National Library Service is developing a free BARD iPhone APP** to be available for Talking Book Library patrons nationwide by the end of 2013.
- **The MTBL all-Digital Local Recording Program** will offer patrons increased access to navigation capabilities to our local digital recordings.
- The **Natural Heritage MapViewer** (<http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/>) is an interactive web mapping service that empowers users to perform a variety of tasks to access and use Natural Heritage Program information. The MapViewer displays and provides reports for: 1) Land Cover and Ecological Systems for Montana; 2) animal and plant sightings from across Montana; 3) Montana Land Management data (including conservation easements, public lands, and managed areas); 4) thousands of on-the-ground, geo-referenced photos; and 5) wetlands and riparian areas.
- **The MSL Web presence** is undergoing significant change. Using a new content management system called WordPress existing web pages are being transformed to meet new state web requirements and to give staff more direct control over web content. This process affords staff the opportunity to evaluate web resources for content and timeliness. The former [GIS data list](#) has been re-engineered to utilize standardized database driven pages for more efficient delivery. A new [Learning Portal](#) is now available. It serves as a clearinghouse for a wide variety of training materials including recorded webinars.
- **MSL Geographic Information** implemented a new request management system that assigns a primary and secondary staff member each week to manage all information requests. The intent of this change is to provide efficient, effective and consistent service to our patrons while focusing the direction of staff not on call that week to priority work plan tasks.
- **Montana Library Directory:** Access to the [Montana Library Directory](#) has been changed to allow for individual accounts. Librarians accessing the updated Directory for the first time in the "edit" mode will initially be prompted to create an account. This new architecture enables better granularity of access to this statewide tool as MSL continues to add vital information, registration, enrollment and data collecting opportunities within the Directory.
- **Wetland and Riparian Web Map Service:** MTNHP and Geographic Information made available the Wetland and Riparian Web Map Service for public use. The service is now available at: http://gisservice.mt.gov/ArcGIS/rest/services/MSDI_Framework/WetlandsRiparian/MapServer

The new map service allows users to view the most recently published and provisional wetland and riparian data for the state as well as the historical National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data.

Goal Three, Training: MSL provides libraries, agencies, its partners and Montanans with appropriate trainings and training resources so that they can make the best use of the resources offered.

- **2013 Summer Library Leadership Institute:** ALA president and library consultant Maureen Sullivan will be the lead presenter the week of July 22nd at Carroll College in Helena. Registration will be limited to 20 attendees with priority given to library and branch directors that did not attend the Institute in 2012. Participants from last year will be invited to act as mentors for the 2013 leadership class. Watch for more information about times, dates and registration soon.
- **Learning Portal Launched:** MSL training staff launched the Learning Portal at the end of January: <http://learning.montanastatelibrary.org>. The Portal is the destination for training and learning support for librarians. Trainers will continue to add content weekly to the website and will make adjustments to facilitate ease of use.
- **MTBL Local Recording Program Training:** Volunteer teams are being trained to perform digital navigation mark-up during each local Montana book recording process.
- **MTBL Patron BARD Training:** Customized patron BARD training is designed to address each patron's own personal operating system.
- **MTBL Website Learning Portal for Public Libraries** is being developed. A priority is to offer public library staff helpful BARD download training instructions for assisting qualified patrons to independently and successfully perform BARD downloads.
- **Webinars & online courses:** Following a three-part grantsmanship training last summer, MSL consultant Tracy Cook presented a three-part trustee training course in Fall 2012. MSL training staff is now working on a four-part course for new library directors. Providing short online courses is rounding out the online training offered by the MSL. Webinar training continues to have improved attendance as registration routinely reaches the maximum enrollments. Archived recordings of webinars are available via the new Learning Portal and routinely get regular viewing as well by rates well exceeding those that attend live, usually 3-4x the number of views within two weeks of the webinar. State Librarian Jennie Stapp is offering a once-per-month Webside Chat on Fridays at noon to provide updates on issues of concern to Montana's librarians.

Goal Four, Consultation and Leadership: MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.

- **2013 Library Legislative Day:** Library Legislative Day was held the day before MSL's budget testimony. We had a high number of librarians that attended the event this year and those in

attendance reported good contact and conversations with their legislators. On the day of the event, training was provided on how to communicate effectively with your legislator. The READ photo booth was a big draw for legislators; many came specifically to get their picture taken (and some called to see if they could come in early to have it done) so that their local library would have their READ poster displayed. MSL would like to thank those librarians that came to the event. You make it a success.

- **Early Literacy:** The second annual "Ready 2 Read Rendezvous" was held in Helena at the Lewis & Clark Library on October 5 – 7, 2012. Fifty librarians attended. Through the First Interstate Bank grant, complemented by LSTA funding, all meals and lodging as well as travel costs were paid for attendees. Speakers included internationally-renowned experts on their topics, many of whom have written "THE" textbook on the subject that they covered. The following workshops were offered: The Pyramid Model: Supporting Young Children's Social Emotional Development; Toys are Tools for Learning; Creating Play Spaces in Libraries; Every Child Ready to Learn Through Play; and The Science of Children's Behaviors.
- Through the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation grant, the Montana State Library distributed materials to 21 Montana libraries so that these libraries could develop Ready 2 Read PlaySpaces. The goal of the PlaySpace is to help libraries position themselves as community hubs for healthy child and family development. Each library received a medium-sized set of hardwood unit blocks. This solid maple hardwood set includes 184 different blocks in 19 different shapes and comes with a 50 year guarantee. In addition to the set of blocks, libraries also received one set of community play people, one set of community garages, and one set of hardwood community vehicles.
- With money from the First Interstate Bank grant, we were able to develop trunks that are focused on Montana's "Indian education for all" mandate and will be housed in libraries on Montana's reservations. These trunks will circulate just like the existing "Ready 2 Read Goes Wild" trunks and will be available for check-out by schools, child care centers, Head Start programs, and library patrons in good standing. Staff worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the MT Office of Public Instruction's Indian Education program staff to develop a list of materials that complement 1) the Growing Up Wild curriculum and the 2) Indian education for all mandate while helping children to develop early literacy skills and an interest in Montana animals and nature. The trunks include about 30 books that range in topics from Montana's tribes to Montana's native animals and habitats. They will also include ten different puppets that support the books, and animal parts such as skull replicas. These trunks now belong to the following libraries: Darcy McNickle Library at Salish Kootenai College; the Harlem Public Library; Glacier County Library; Little Big Horn College Library; Lame Deer Elementary School Library; the Stone Child College Library; and the Fort Peck Tribal College Library.
- **Excellent Library Service Award (the ELSA):** – At its February meeting, the MSL Commission approved a new way to honor Montana libraries. The ELSA is based on the public library standards with the requirements revised to be applicable to all types of libraries. To receive an ELSA, a library must meet an established number of the enhanced and excellent requirements from the standards. The awards will be announced at the MLA Awards luncheon in Missoula. A

library achieving the honor will receive a certificate, and a letter will be sent from MSL to the appropriate governing body announcing that the library is being recognized for providing excellent service. To apply for the ELSA, library directors complete an online checklist available through the Montana Library Directory (http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Library_Directory/default.asp).

- **Federations Survey:** Montana's library federations play an important role in library development around the state. Funding support for federations comes from state coal severance tax monies provided through the State Library and is divided between the six federations based on population served. After administrative costs for time and travel by federation coordinators, remaining funds are allocated to participating libraries based on goals determined in each federation's plan of service. A federation's plan of service may restrict the use of the funds to certain programs such as continuing education or technology. Federation funding differs from the direct per capita/per square mile state aid to libraries that comes from the general fund, which may be used entirely at the library's discretion.
- A major impetus for federation funding is reflected in Montana code 22-1-401: "to pool resources and information and avoid duplication of effort".
- To assist both federations and the State Library in finding out more about the current uses of federation funding and the public value they support, please take time to complete the [Federation Membership Survey](http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/For_All_Librarians/Federations/default.asp) found on the State Library website at http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/For_All_Librarians/Federations/default.asp.
- If you have questions or would like to visit about the survey, you can contact your federation coordinator, your State Library consultant or Sarah McHugh at samchugh@mt.gov or 406-444-9816.
- **Montana Land Information Advisory Council:** Acting under authority received from an interagency agreement with the Department of Administration, MSL continues to chair and staff the Montana Land Information Advisory Council. This council makes grants available to local governments to support the development of GIS, advises on priorities for the development of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure and makes funding recommendations for the use of Montana Land Information Act funds. The FY 14 grant application round closed on February 15 and award announcements will be made later this spring.
- **MTBL BARD Demo Accounts for Public Libraries:** Each Montana Public Library is being encouraged to sign up for a BARD Demo account for the purpose of instructing qualified patrons on how to download BARD materials at their local public library.
- **Public Computer Sustainability:** Network check-ups at 33 public libraries have been completed. All libraries received a comprehensive network performance and security report and have mitigated high-risks. Three libraries were re-wired; over 20 libraries received new hardware that improved performance and monitoring capabilities.

- In coordination with the Library Development team, BTOP is developing public computer center best practices that will align with the [Library Edge](#) benchmarks. Additionally, MSL will provide libraries with local and national resources to attain the benchmarks. Examples include instructions on purchasing hardware and software through the state cooperative purchasing program and sample laptop check-out policies. Based on suggestions from the Montana State University feasibility study, MSL hopes to provide this information in a one-stop location that is easy to access.
- The project director will draft a thorough justification of sustainability efforts and strategies for the April federal quarterly report, including which local technology training positions will be maintained and how, potential partnerships with state and local agencies, and the best practices outlined above.
- The scope during the last quarter of the grant will include: digital literacy training from the BTOP technology trainer, salary and benefits for 6 grant-funded local public library technology trainers, MLA scholarships, E-rate application assistance, and possible technology training for MSL staff so that they can assist libraries after BTOP.
- As the grant winds to a close, grant staff are beginning to find other employment opportunities. BTOP Compliance Officer Sarah Elkins accepted a position with the City of Helena. Project Director Donci Bardash has accepted a position in Austin, Texas and will be leaving the program in early April. State Library management is working closely with the BTOP team to maintain program requirements through the end of the grant period (June 30, 2013) and to evaluate future sustainability opportunities. Donci will communicate important updates about reporting and final budget requirements to BTOP libraries. We wish BTOP staff all the best and thank them for the significant opportunities and resources they brought to all Montana libraries.
- **Public Library Statistics in Map Format:** For those of you who prefer to see statistics in a visual format MSL staff have added maps to the online statistics center: http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/For_Public_Librarians/Statistics/reports/default.asp. These maps will allow users to see how they compare to other public libraries across the state. Users can customize the map to see as little or as much information as desired.
- **State Publications Management Plan:** The Library Information Services (LIS) program published the State Publications Management Plan. This document describes how the state depository library program has evolved to accommodate current state agency publishing practices and the information seeking behavior of state government researchers. MT.GOV Connect is now the primary means by which LIS acquires and provides depository libraries permanent public access to state government information. LIS staff is showing state agencies how this technology provides unprecedented access to their state publications and how any Montana library can become a depository by adopting the MT.GOV Connect search interface.
- **Statistics Task Force:** The State Library is seeking feedback about the statistics we collect. Specifically we want to clarify the interpretation of different data elements collected, we want to evaluate when and how often to collect statistics and we will consider whether or not to add any

additional data collected through the BTOP program to the overall statistics program. In order to gather this feedback, the State Library will seat a task force in March. In addition to looking at current federally mandated statistics, the task force will be asked to consider additional resources like the Library Edge initiative and the use of geospatial data to improve upon statistics collected.

- **SWIM Project:** The University of North Texas formed a new SWIM cohort in August 2012. Because there were SWIM grant funds available, ten members of the new cohort who live in the SWIM states received small scholarships of \$3,400 each. For the original SWIM scholarship recipients, most have completed their formal library education (MLS degree or School Library Media Endorsement) and are now working to meet the employment requirement for the scholarship (two years in a professional position). During March, the SWIM partners will work with the ten graduates who have not yet found a SWIM-approved position.

Goal Five, Collaboration: MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.

- **Certification Program:** MSL encourages librarians and trustees to consider notifying city and county officials when they have completed the requirements for certification. The State Library, with permission, can send a letter, or the local library can make the announcement. To further recognize library workers who earn certification, MSL will place an 'ad' in the MLA conference booklet listing all recent certificate recipients.
- **Courier Pilot:** "Phase Two" of the Statewide Courier Project includes a growing group of libraries served by Critelli Couriers, a Butte based courier service. The project is facilitated by the Butte Silver Bow Public Library. A complete list of current participants can be found on [their website](#). Contact Cara Orban, Statewide Projects Librarian or Lee Miller, director at Butte Silver Bow Public Library, for information about the courier project.
- **MontanaLibrary2Go:** The Phase 17 libraries, Livingston-Park County Library and Stone Child College Library, went live in MontanaLibrary2Go on November 30. Dr. John Woodenlegs Library at Chief Dull Knife College joined in Phase 18, bringing the consortium to 81 libraries. In addition, there were several financial donations made to purchase new content, adding significantly to the selection budget. The statewide selection team rotates the purchasing process monthly, carefully developing this shared collection for all members.
- On January 23, the MontanaLibrary2Go Executive Committee met at Lewis and Clark Library to review and discuss the MontanaLibrary2Go bylaws draft and define the workflow between the Governing Board (general membership), Selection Committee, and Executive Committee. The annual membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 1, in coordination with the Montana Shared Catalog spring meetings, in Miles City.
- **The MSL Network Advisory Council:** The NAC met in Helena, March 12. The agenda included a discussion of the current statewide database suite. The NAC voted to recommend that the State Library renew the existing contracts with EBSCO and Tutor.com for the current suite of

databases and HomeworkMT. Recommendations for next year's statewide projects budget were also made. These include support for OCLC group services, migration assistance for two new MSC libraries, the popular Fall Workshop, Early Literacy projects and assistance for new libraries to join MontanaLibrary2Go. Librarians should contact their NAC representative (http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/network_advisory_council/network_tf.asp) if they have thoughts to share on matters within the purview of the Council.

- **Montana Shared Catalog (MSC):** The Montana Shared Catalog added 23 new libraries since the last report and now boasts a total membership of 165 libraries and branches. The Symphony ILS software that runs the system was upgraded to the latest vendor version and the new Enterprise end-user, search interface is currently undergoing profiling and testing. The Directors Station statistical reporting system was also upgraded to the latest vendor version. The catalog itself has been undergoing a manual de-duping process with work being performed by 4 temp hires from the MSC cataloging community. The project has cleaned up more than 32,000 records and should be completed by June. MSC governance was enhanced when the membership voted to add two additional seats for the Executive Committee. The new seats will be filled when representatives from a medium-sized public library and a larger school library are elected during the MSC Members meeting on May 3 in Miles City. The MSC received two applications for new libraries, Fort Peck Tribal Library and the Judith Basin Library. The Network Advisory Council voted to recommend their admittance to the MSC. A final decision will be made by the State Library Commission at their April 17 meeting. The MSC did not accept applications from school libraries this period pending a decision about how to provide adequate staff support for the overwhelming number of interested schools. This issue will also be discussed at the May membership meeting.
- **MTBL Database Upgrade:** A 2013 Upgrade to the MTBL Keystone Library Automated Database (KLAS) and online Web-Opac catalog will improve services to patrons through enhanced catalog search capabilities.

Goal Six, Sustainable Success: MSL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and is successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.

- **63rd Legislative Session:** The Legislative Session has passed its mid-point. The State Library is pleased to announce that our entire House Bill 2 budget is intact and the decision packages for new proposals were approved by the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and the full House Appropriations Committee. House Bill 2 was unanimously approved on 2nd reading by the full House on March 19. The budget bill now heads to the Senate where it will be heard by the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. Additionally, our Appropriations subcommittee voted to add an additional \$292,936 annually, for each of the next two years, for per capita state aid to public libraries. The Montana Library Association is seeking a statutory appropriation through HB 203 that will continue some or all of this funding beyond the next biennium. House Bill 38, the bill that will transfer legal authority for the Montana Land Information Act to the State Library, made it successfully through the House. It was heard and approved by the Senate State Administration Committee. We currently wait 2nd reading for this bill on the Senate Floor. If it

passes without amendment from the Senate it will be ready for Governor Bullock's signature. The State Library and MLA continue to shepherd our budget and these bills through the legislative process and we are monitoring and responding to other bills that impact the communities we serve.

- Two bills, HB 379 and 380, that would have amended the process for creating library districts were tabled in committee. These bills were opposed by the Montana Library Association because the statewide impact of the proposals was unclear and potentially damaging. The State Library recognizes that there is a need and opportunity to improve upon library district law. To that end we have committed to seating a task force to evaluate the current statutes and to make recommendations for legislation to bring to the 2015 Legislative Session.
- A more detailed legislative update is available online at:
http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/Commission/archive/2013/02/20130213legupdate.pdf.
- **Federal Sequestration and LSTA funds:** Current guidance from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the source for our federal Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) funds, is to plan for a 5% reduction in LSTA funds beginning this federal fiscal year as a result of the current federal sequestration. This amounts to just over \$50,000 for Montana when compared to the FY12 award. At their March 12 meeting, the NAC voted to recommend to the Commission that, if necessary, this amount should come from the currently unallocated statewide projects budget (approximately \$75,000). The NAC does not recommend reducing or eliminating funding for any current statewide projects, nor do they recommend increasing funding for any projects in light of the potential cuts. The Commission will consider their recommendation at their April 17 commission meeting. We hope to receive more definitive information from IMLS by the end of March before the current federal continuing budget resolution expires.
- **Montana State Library Commission:** The next meeting of the Commission will be held on April 17th at the Montana Library Association Conference in Missoula. Meeting materials and information will be posted online at: http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/commission/default.asp. The Commission will also host a Conversation with the Commission on Thursday afternoon during the Conference. You are invited to share your feedback about the priorities of the State Library with them. The Commission is excited to use current technology to gather feedback from as many in the library community as possible. Look for further information shared via Wired in coming weeks.
- **Montana State Library Staff Updates:**
 - Suzanne Reymer, Statewide Consulting Librarian, has been invited to serve on the American Library Association's E-rate Task Force. This task force works with the Schools and Libraries Division of USAC to streamline the e-rate process, gather feedback from librarians, and serve in an advisory capacity to other library organizations.

- Allan Cox, formerly the systems and services manager with the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) is now lead program manager at MTNHP.
- Stacy Bruhn is now the GIS Web Developer. Stacy has done an enormous amount of work developing tools that improve the usability of the MSL web site over the last several years and we are excited about this opportunity for her to work more closely with Tom Marino, the web manager, and the other members of the IT group to provide more dedicated programming support to the MSL web pages. With this transition MSL is currently hiring for a new State Data Consultant.
- **Some Upcoming Library Meeting Dates:**
 - March 23, South Central Federation meeting, Big Timber & Sagebrush Federation meeting, Miles City
 - April 17-20, Montana Library Association Conference, Missoula
 - April 17, Montana State Library Commission, Missoula
 - April 25, Gold Plains Federation meeting, Wolf Point
 - May 1, MontanaLibrary2Go Membership meeting, Miles City (Tentative)
 - May 3, Montana Shared Catalog Membership meeting, Miles City
 - May 16, Pathfinder Federation meeting, Fort Benton
 - May 17 & 18, Tamarack Federation meeting, Big Fork